

VENOM

FIRST HOST



COSTA
BAGLEY
LIM
HENNESSY
HANNA
ALMARA

MARVEL

2

BAGLEY
ISANOVE

YEARS AGO, A CHANCE ENCOUNTER LED TO DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK BONDING WITH THE AGGRESSIVE ALIEN ORGANISM KNOWN AS A SYMBIOTE. UNITED BY THEIR SIMILAR NEED FOR JUSTICE IN THE FORM OF VENGEANCE, AND GIFTED WITH POWERS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF SPIDER-MAN (ALONG WITH UNIQUE ABILITIES), THE TWO FIGHT CRIME AS THE WICKED WEB-SLINGER VENOM. BUT BEFORE THERE WAS VENOM, THERE WAS...

VENOM

FIRST HOST



THE VENOM SYMBIOTE RECENTLY SPAWNED, AND, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF LIZ ALLAN, ALCHEMAX HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH THE PROTECTION OF ITS ALIEN OFFSPRING UNTIL VENOM FEELS IT IS READY FOR THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

BUT LIZ HAS DESIGNS OF HER OWN FOR THE CREATURE, AND HAS ALREADY ALLOWED HER SCIENTISTS TO STUDY IT WITHOUT BROCK'S CONSENT, PROMPTING HIM AND HIS SYMBIOTE TO LASH OUT.

LEAVING THE ALCHEMAX HEADQUARTERS TO COOL DOWN, VENOM WAS AMBUSHED IN AN ALLEY BY A SKRULL WOMAN. ANOTHER MYSTERIOUS INTERLOPER — A KREE — STOOD AGAINST HER... BUT CLAIMED THE VENOM SYMBIOTE BELONGED TO HIM!

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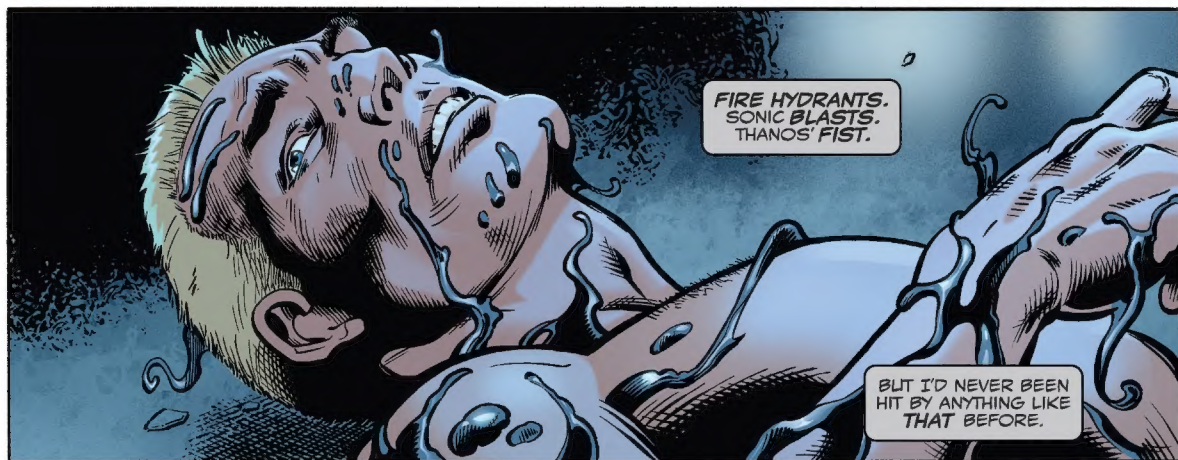
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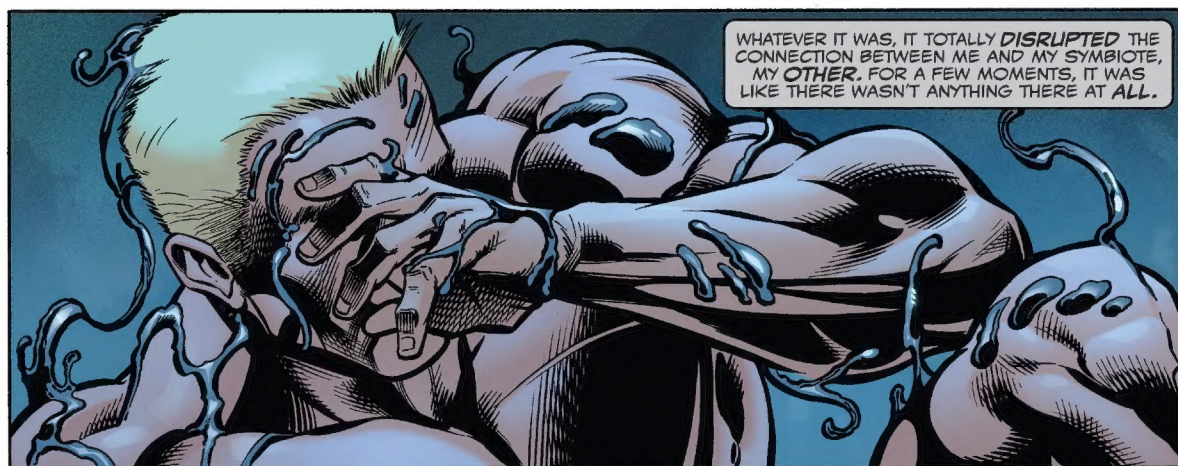


OVER THE YEARS, I'VE
BEEN HIT WITH A LOT OF
THINGS THAT PROBABLY
SHOULD HAVE KILLED ME.



FIRE HYDRANTS.
SONIC BLASTS.
THANOS' FIST.

BUT I'D NEVER BEEN
HIT BY ANYTHING LIKE
THAT BEFORE.



WHATEVER IT WAS, IT TOTALLY **DISRUPTED** THE
CONNECTION BETWEEN ME AND MY SYMBIOTE,
MY **OTHER**. FOR A FEW MOMENTS, IT WAS
LIKE THERE WASN'T ANYTHING THERE AT ALL.



AND WHEN IT
CAME BACK...

...IT WAS
SCREAMING.

GOTTA HELP,
EDDIE, GOTTA
HELP!



HELP
WHOP

I SEE
TWO ALIENS
FIGHTING. ONE THAT
TRIED TO KILL US AND
ONE THAT'S TRYING
TO KILL HER.

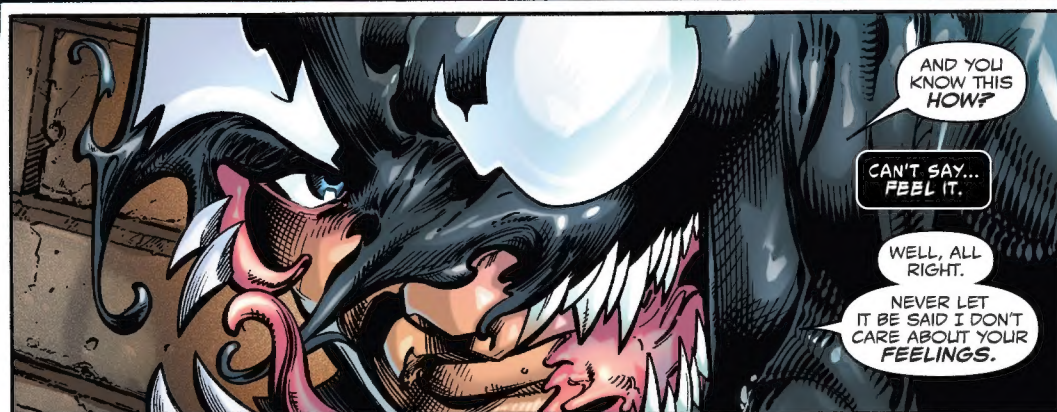


NOT SURE
I'M FEELING
TOO FRIENDLY
TO ANYBODY
RIGHT NOW.



BLUE SKIN.
HELP HIM!

HE'S A
HERO!



AND YOU
KNOW THIS
HOW?

CAN'T SAY...
FEEL IT.

WELL, ALL
RIGHT.

NEVER LET
IT BE SAID I DON'T
CARE ABOUT YOUR
FEELINGS.

THE HALA YOU FOUGHT FOR IS GONE,
TEL-KAR. YOU WERE FOOLISH TO
COME HERE. YOU COULD HAVE
GOTTEN AWAY CLEAN.

BUT YOUR
INSANE LOYALTY
TO THAT--

WHA--?

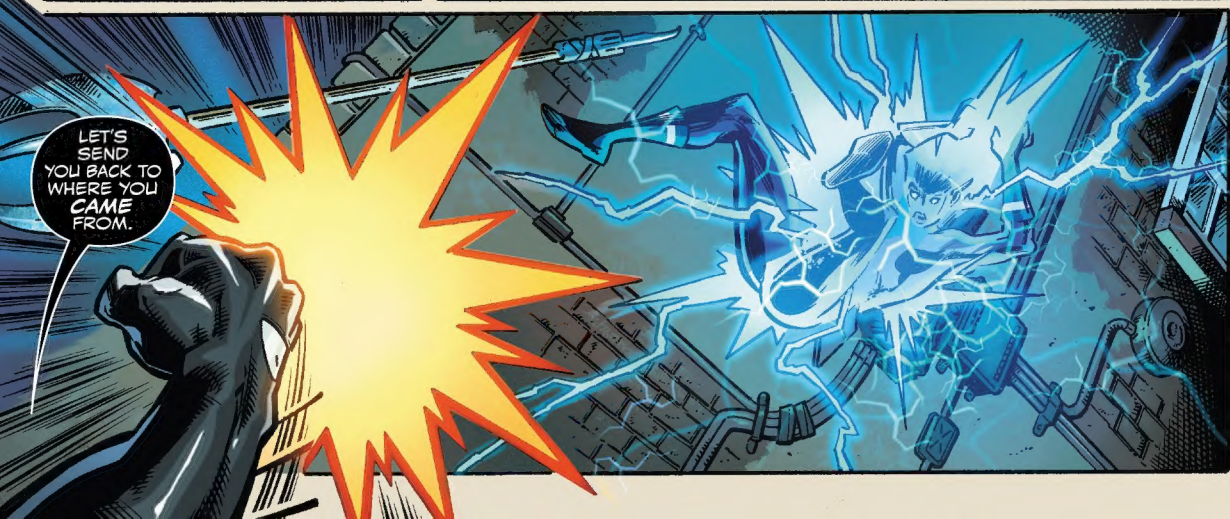


YOU COME
TO OUR CITY.
START A FIGHT.
TRY TO KILL
US.

WE
DON'T LIKE
YOU.



LET'S
SEND
YOU BACK TO
WHERE YOU
CAME FROM.





NOW, YOU...
...WHY DO
YOU SMELL SO
FAMILIAR?



FIGHT
FIRST. ANSWER
LATER.



WELL,
UNLESS YOU
WANT *US* TO FIGHT
YOU, YOU'LL
TELL *US*--

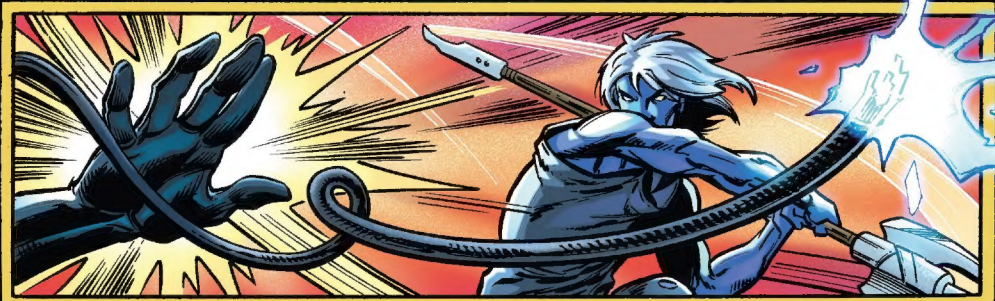


AARRRR!



ALL THIS WAY,
ALL THAT PAIN YOU
CAUSED AND ENDURED,
JUST FOR IT TO END IN
SOME TRASH-STREWN
BACKWATER.

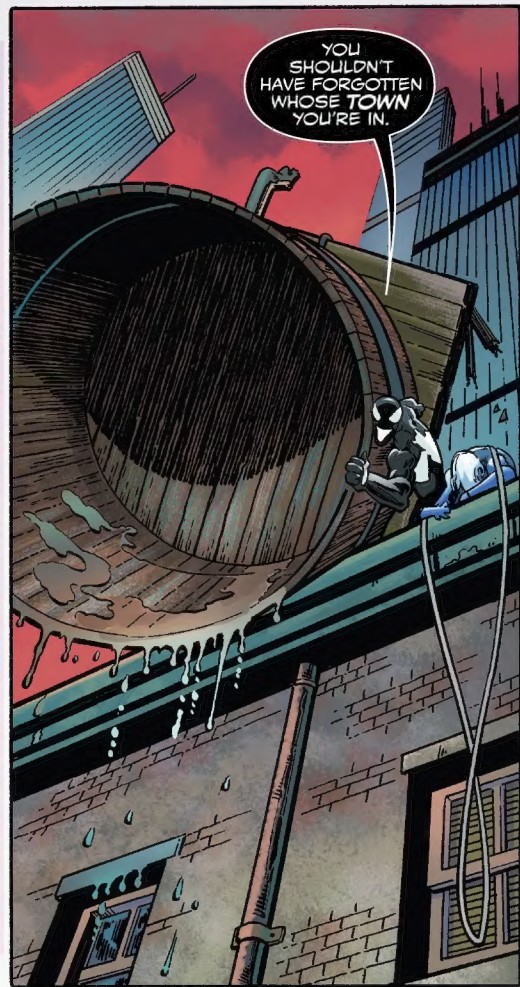
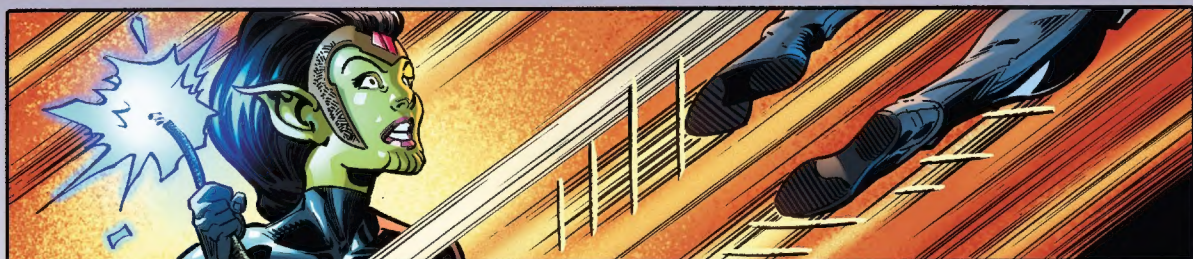
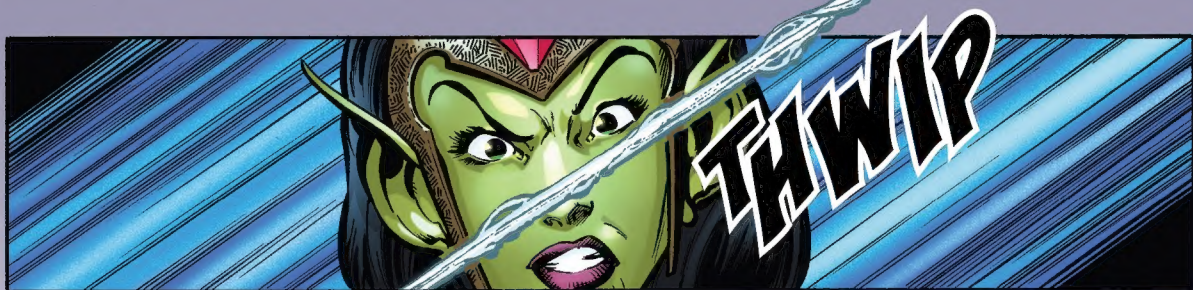
I DO
PITY YOU,
TEL-KAR.



THE SKRULLS
WILL PAY FOR THEIR
CRIMES. YOU SHOULD
NOT HAVE FOLLOWED
ME, M'LANZ.



YOU
SHOULD NOT HAVE
FORGOTTEN I'M
A SKRULL.





WHAT...
IS THIS?
THE **SYMBIOTE**
CREATES
THIS?

INCREDIBLE.
HOW WOULD
YOU EVEN **THINK**
OF SUCH A
THING?



WE ARE
ASKING THE QUESTIONS
NOW. **WHY** WERE WE
ATTACKED
BY A **SKRULL**? WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE AND **WHY**
DO WE FEEL LIKE WE
KNOW YOU?



ONE
OF YOU KNOWS
ME. WE KNEW EACH
OTHER...LONG
AGO...



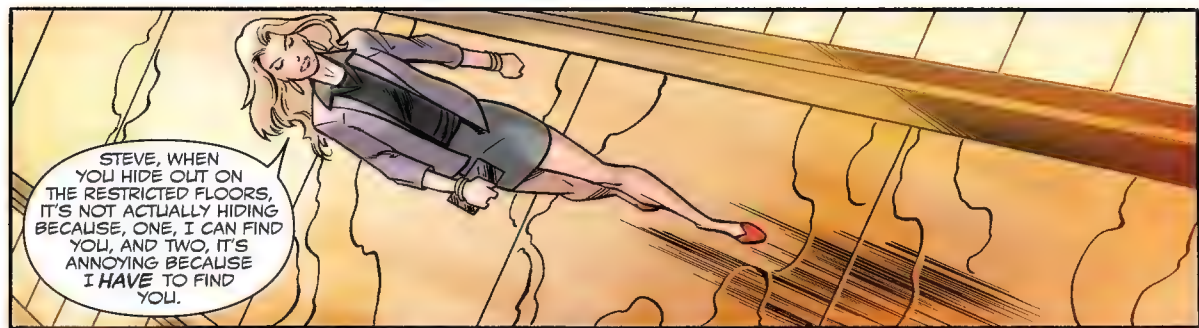
...ON THE
HALA'S GLORY...
IT...

WAIT. STARTING TO
REMEMBER--



...IT'S SO
GOOD...TO
SEE YOU
AGAIN...

NO! GOTTA
SAVE HIM!



STEVE, WHEN YOU HIDE OUT ON THE RESTRICTED FLOORS, IT'S NOT ACTUALLY HIDING BECAUSE, ONE, I CAN FIND YOU, AND TWO, IT'S ANNOYING BECAUSE I HAVE TO FIND YOU.



YOUR TEAM STILL HASN'T UPDATED ME ON THE--



I'M SORRY, MS. ALLAN, I'M A LITTLE TIED UP AT THE MOMENT.

HOLD THE LIGHT! THERE! OVER THERE!



YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.

"THIS IS IT, BROCK. FOR REAL."



I CAN'T LET YOU TURN MY **BUSINESS** INTO A **KREE TRIAGE** AND A NURSERY FOR **SYMBIOTE SPAWNS**.

THIS ISN'T **EDDIE BROCK'S** HOME FOR ALIEN FOUNDLINGS.

I HAVE THOUSANDS OF EMPLOYEES TO THINK ABOUT. I WON'T RISK **ALPHA FLIGHT** COMING AFTER US. OR WORSE, **GALACTUS** OR SOMEBODY VAPORIZING US FROM SPACE.

YOU NEED TO TAKE YOUR **SPAWN** AND **PAPA SMURF** DOWN THERE AND GET THEM **OUT** OF MY--

EXCUSE ME...



THE MAN IN THE WHEELCHAIR FELL **ASLEEP**.



YOU
LIKELY **SAVED**
MY **LIFE**. YOU HAVE
MY **GRATITUDE**. AND
YOU DESERVE
ANSWERS.

I WAS
A **DEEP COVER**
AGENT, DEPLOYED UNDER
THE **FLEET OF THE THIRD**
SPIRAL ARM AT THE VERY
OUTSET OF THE WAR
BETWEEN **KREE** AND
SKRULL.

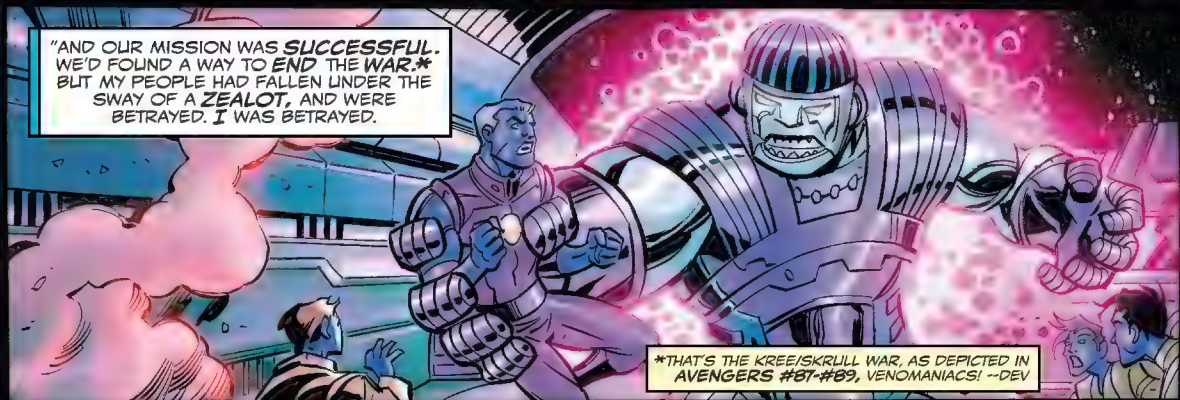
THE **SKRULLS**
COULD NOT MATCH US **CULTURALLY**
NOR **TECHNOLOGICALLY**, BUT THEY HAD
ONE GREAT **BIOLOGICAL** ADVANTAGE...THEY
COULD CHANGE SHAPE. BLEND IN,
HIDE IN PLAIN SIGHT. WE COULDN'T
MATCH THAT...



...UNTIL
WE DISCOVERED
THE **KLYNTAR**. BEINGS
WHO COULD BOND WITH A
KREE, GIVE US **STRENGTH**,
SPEED AND AT LEAST A
COSMETIC ABILITY TO
EMULATE THE **SKRULL**
SHAPE-SHIFTING.

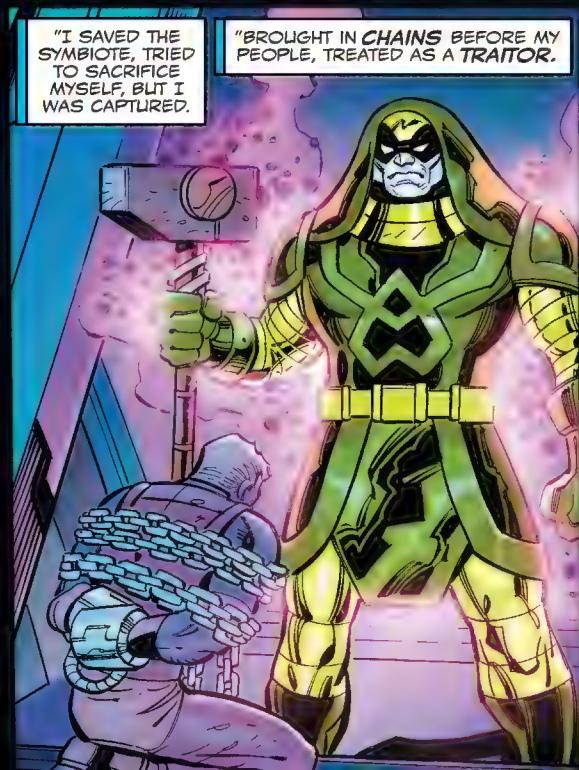


I WAS
SELECTED FROM A
POOL OF **HUNDREDS**
OF RECRUITS. THE **SYMBIOTE**
WAS HARVESTED FROM ITS
HOMEWORLD. BOTH OF US
PUT THROUGH...**GRUELING**
TRAINING. **MONTHS**.



"AND OUR MISSION WAS **SUCCESSFUL**.
WE'D FOUND A WAY TO **END THE WAR**.
BUT MY PEOPLE HAD FALLEN UNDER THE
SWAY OF A **ZEALOT**, AND WERE
BETRAYED. I WAS BETRAYED.

*THAT'S THE KREE/SKRULL WAR, AS DEPICTED IN
AVENGERS #87-#89, VENOMANIACS! --DEV



"I SAVED THE
SYMBIOTE, TRIED
TO SACRIFICE
MYSELF, BUT I
WAS CAPTURED.

"BROUGHT IN **CHAINS** BEFORE MY
PEOPLE, TREATED AS A **TRAITOR**.

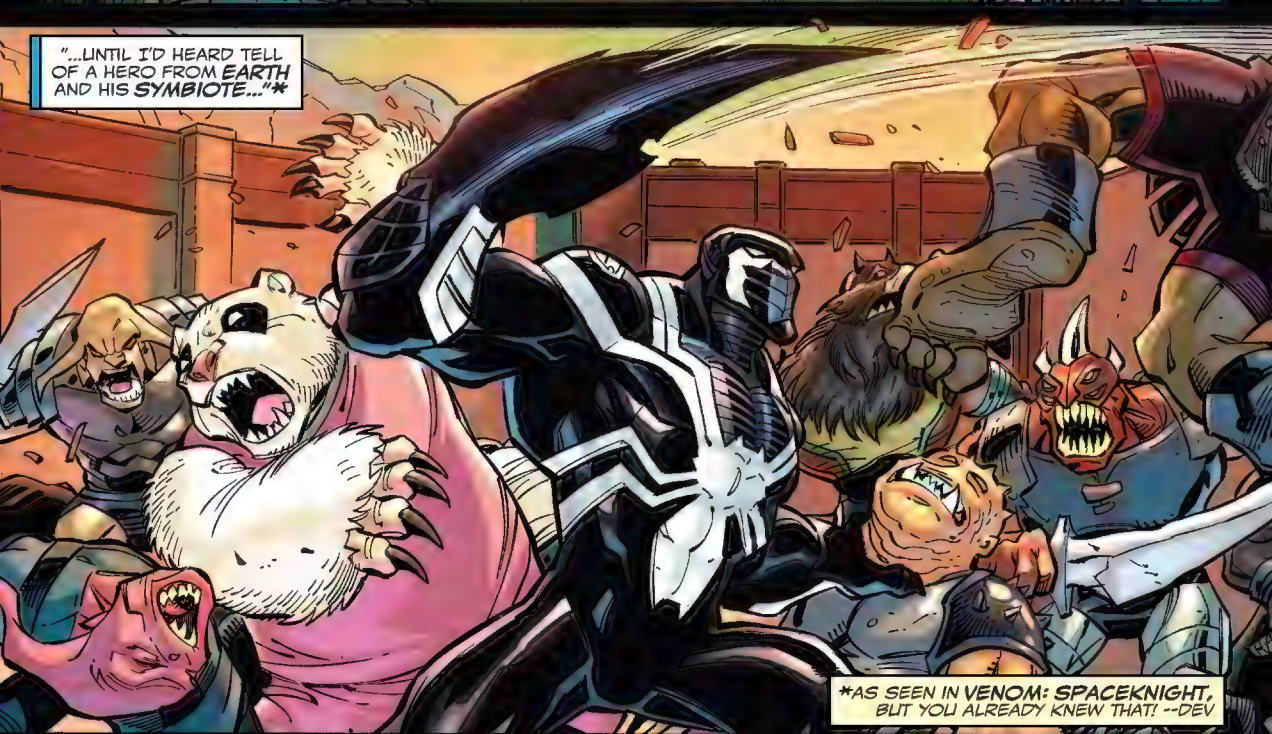


"TRADED TO OUR
SWORN ENEMIES LIKE
A **BARGAINING CHIP**.

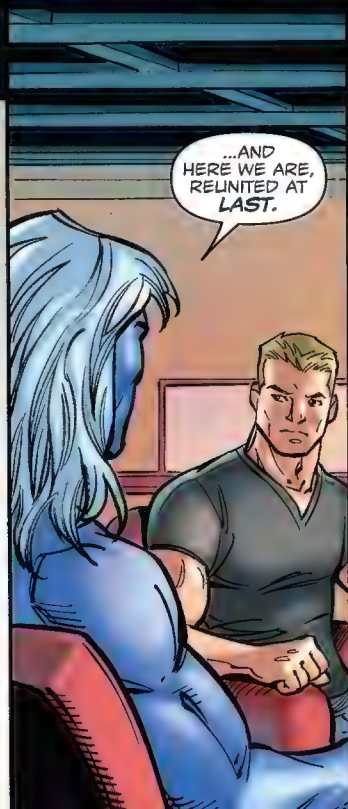


"FINALLY--AFTER YEARS--I
ESCAPED. FLED THROUGH THE
GALAXY, HUNTED, AIMLESS...

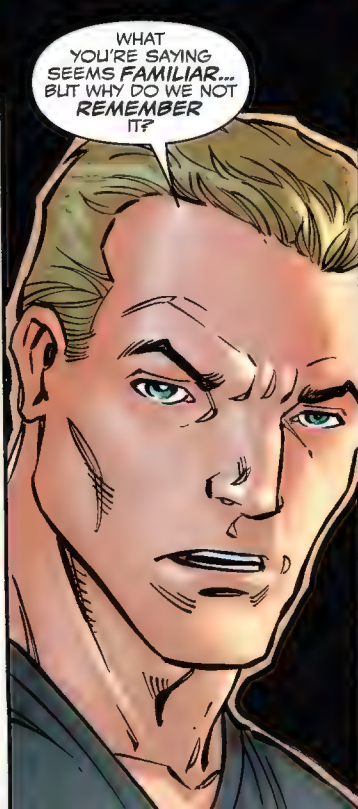
"...UNTIL I'D HEARD TELL
OF A HERO FROM EARTH
AND HIS SYMBIOTE..."*



*AS SEEN IN VENOM: SPACEKNIGHT,
BUT YOU ALREADY KNEW THAT! --DEV



...AND
HERE WE ARE,
REUNITED AT
LAST.



WHAT
YOU'RE SAYING
SEEMS FAMILIAR...
BUT WHY DO WE NOT
REMEMBER
IT?



PART OF
THE TRAINING INVOLVED
POWERFUL HYPNOTIC
LOCKS, TO PROTECT AGAINST
INTERROGATION IF WE
WERE CAPTURED.

THE MEMORIES
ARE THERE, JUST
SUPPRESSED.

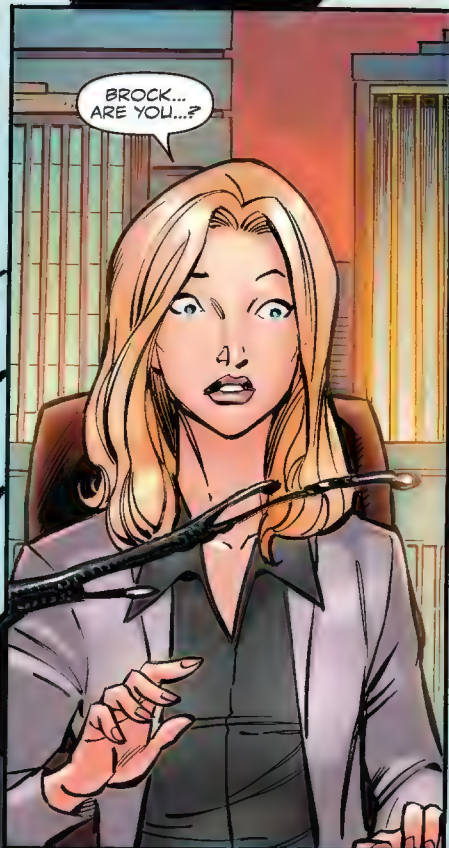
"YOU NEED ONLY TO ALLOW
YOURSELF TO REMEMBER."

UGGHHH...





IT'S TRUE...
WE REMEMBER.
IT'S ALL TRUE...



BROCK...
ARE YOU...?




HELLO
AGAIN.



HELLO
AGAIN, MY
FRIEND.




I AM A
KREE WITHOUT COUNTRY
OR CAUSE. MY WAR IS OVER
AND MY PROSPECTS ARE DIRE. I
BELIEVE YOU HAVE BEEN A GOOD
STEWARD TO THIS SYMBIOTE. BUT
THERE IS STILL MUCH GOOD THE
SYMBIOTE AND I COULD DO
TOGETHER IN MY
GALAXY.



I'VE COME ALL THIS WAY.
I WOULD ASK YOU TO
RETURN IT TO
ME.

THAT'S...
NOT MY
CALL.


NO.



THANKFUL...
FOR LIVES WE
SAVED...
...FOR
BEING A HERO,
BUT...



...MADE
MY CHOICE
ALREADY.

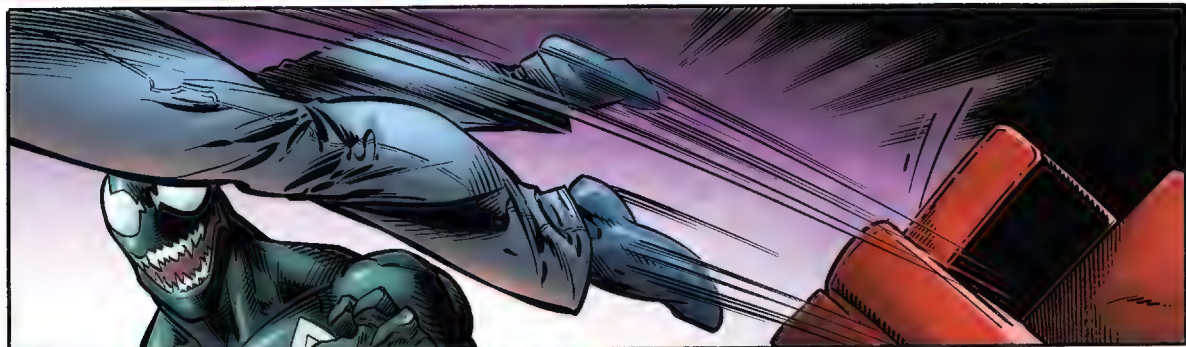
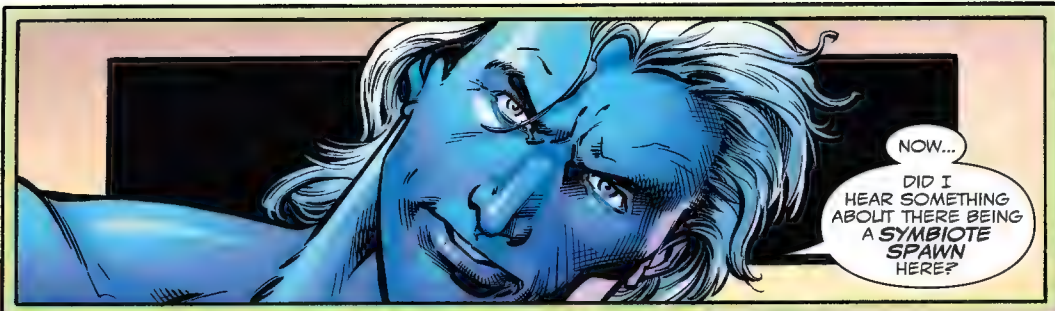


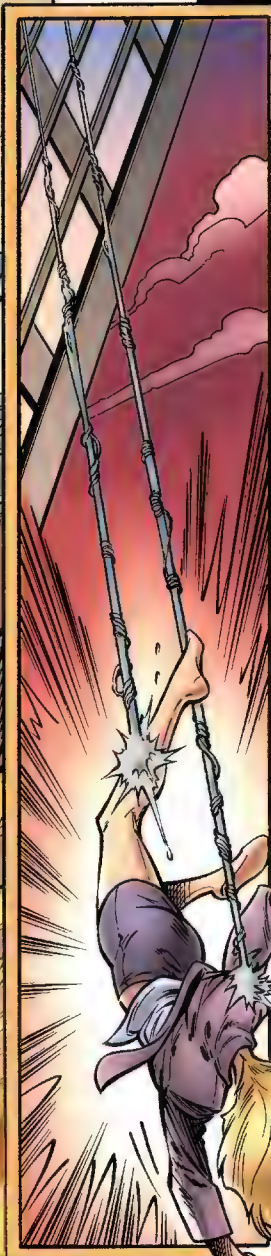
IF THAT
IS YOUR CHOICE...
I HONOR IT.

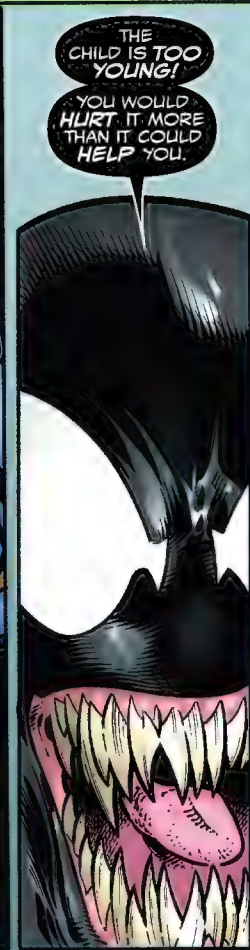
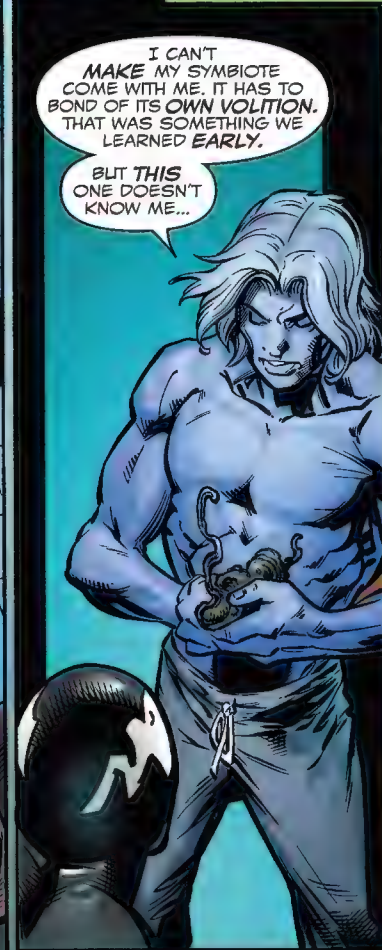
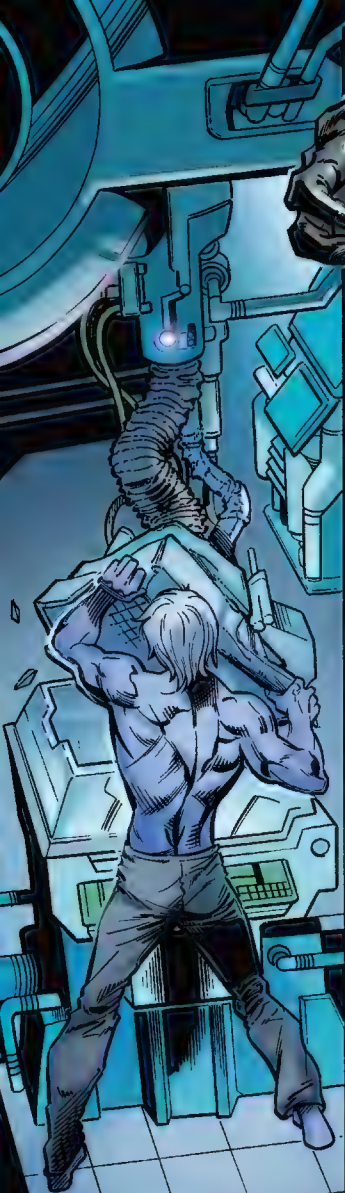
YOU
HAVE MY ENVY,
BROCK. YOU MUST
BE A GREAT
MAN.



NO.
NOT GREAT,
BUT TOGETHER WE
MAKE SOMETHING...
MORE.









DON'T GO--WE
CAN TAKE HIM!

--UNLESS MY
SYMBIOTE COMES WITH
ME WILLINGLY.

NO CHOICE,
EDDIE!

JUST GIVE
US A SECOND! THERE
MUST BE A--

CANNOT RISK HURTING
THE LITTLE ONE.

WILL REMEMBER. WILL
COME BACK, EDDIE.

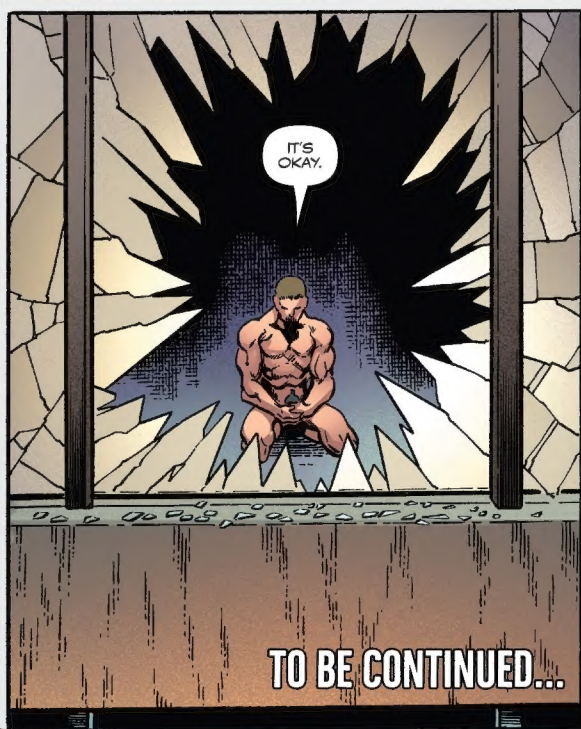
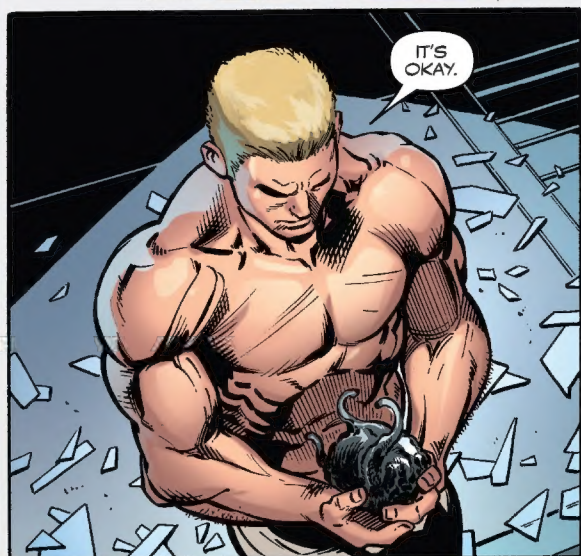
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU THINK
IS GOING TO HAPPEN HERE. IT'LL
NEVER HELP YOU.

THAT'S
WHERE YOU'RE
WRONG.

WHAT
THE HELL
IS...?

AH.
GLORIOUS.

GLORIOUS.





Eddie's Clubhouse

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Hello, in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the ships at sea! And welcome to this--the second issue of **VENOM: THE FIRST HOST**!

This series has been in the works for a LONG time--just over a year at this point--and I am so happy that it's finally out there in the world and in your hands!

This story represents the culmination of scribe Mike Costa's work with the wicked web-slinger, and the idea of Venom's first host returning to the symbiote's life has been a story he's wanted to tell since his run began. Every character, every beat, every moment has been leading to this!

Of course, this ambitious of a story requires a deft hand at the drawing board, and, MAN, I am so glad that Mark Bagley has returned to the fold for this series.

After their work on the **VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR** "Blood in the Water" story during **MARVEL LEGACY**, and April's **VENOM** #164 and #165, it's impossible to deny that Mike and Mark have a special kind of chemistry! Of course, it helps that Mike's one of the best writers in comics today, and that Mark's one of the best to ever pick up a draftsman's pencil in the history of the biz!

And, of course, I can't pass up an opportunity to give a much-deserved shout-out to none other than Ron Lim, artist extraordinaire and Mark's frequent collaborator, including on one of the most beloved Venom stories of all time--the original **LETHAL PROTECTOR**!

The work Mark and Ron have done was foundational to the Venom mythos, and to have them both return to the character during the year of his 30th anniversary is not only a privilege as an editor, but one of the most exciting opportunities I've had as your Venomaniac in Chief!

Add inker Drew Hennessy and color artist Dono Sánchez-Almara to the mix, and the result is one of the most gorgeous-looking Venom books I've ever seen!

So if you're a fan of symbiotes, keep your eyes right here! We've got a host (hah!) of unexpected twists and turns coming your way, including one that involves that most recently birthed of symbiotes. Who will the offspring's host be?! What abilities will it have?! And will Eddie be able to wrestle Venom away from Tel-Kar's clutches before the Kree does irreparable damage to it?

Answers to those questions and more you didn't even know you had are coming, so stick with us--our next issue goes on sale **IN ONE WEEK**! While you're waiting, drop us a line at SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM to let us know how we're doing! Be sure to mark it **OKAY TO PRINT**, and you just may see if right here in this very column!

Until then, stay sharp!
Devin

NEXT



#3



AN  ROBOROS
RELEASE - DCP